SB24 DATE: (City and Zip Code) BILL NO. (Representing) (Street Address or Route Number) (NAME) SUBJECT_ Speaking Against: Speaking in Favor: Registering in Favor: Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Speaking for information Registering Against: only; Neither for nor against: SENATE HEARING SLIP Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South Madison, WI 53707-7882 P.O.Box 7882 but not speaking: but not speaking: (Please Print Plainly) のものが DATE: 26 Sept 01

SENATE HEARING SLIP

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BILL NO. 58240

SUBJECT.

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

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DATE:

SUBJECT STA 122 Walt BILL NO. SB34D

Brock Memorial Highway (Swendolgnne

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(Street Address or Route Number)

(City and Zip Code)

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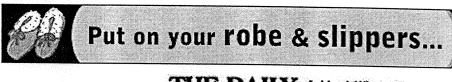
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We can respect free speech yet not condone hate

A Daily Press editorial Last Updated: Saturday, July 21st, 2001 10:02:55 AM

The bit of State Highway 122 stretching north-south between Upson and Saxon isn't heavily used. But those who traveling between the two tiny Iron County communities will soon see something new: a cheery rainbow Adopt-A-Highway sign pronouncing the two-mile piece of 122 to be "adopted" by the Mercer Ku Klux Klan chapter.

Micheal C. McQueeney, grand dragon of the Mercer group, applied for the permit May 24. On the advice of DOT legal counsel, the permit has been approved and the signs are being ordered, according to Dan Grasser, director of Department of Transportation District 7, headquartered in Rhinelander.

While McQueeney has said his organization wants to "clean up its image" by performing a public service, it is likely he is just as keen to see some publicity for the KKK as he is to pick up litter. That's because the KKK got lots of attention when a chapter applied for a permit to clean a stretch of Missouri highway south of St. Louis. Missouri tried to deny the permit, taking the fight all the way to the Supreme Court, which in March of this year turned down a Missouri appeal.

Based on Missouri's experience, the DOT could do little but grant the permit, even if it grates to have a hate group pick up trash on the highway.

But there is another lesson to be learned from Missouri.

That state's Legislature decided although the Klan has a right to be there, it could find a way to say it doesn't approve of hate or hate groups. The stretch of road adopted by the Klan was named in honor of Civil rights icon Rosa Parks. So the KKK (which never did pick up any trash in Missouri, and ultimately lost its stretch of road) would have been

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cleaning up a highway honoring the black woman who refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man.

Wisconsin should consider a similar action on Highway 122.

We would suggest naming Highway 122 in honor of the late Walt Bresette, a member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa widely known for his work on social justice issues, the environment and tribal sovereignty.

Bresette had friends of all races, and would likely have found a delicious irony in having the KKK keep "his" stretch of highway free of trash.

The right to free speech, and the right to hold beliefs most find abhorrent is part of our privilege as Americans. So is the right to protest.

In naming Highway 122 in honor of Bresette, the Legislature can make it clear we, as a state, don't condone hate.

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Date: 9/2000 Moved by: CROBSCHMIT AB: SB: AJR: SJR: AR: SR:	OT 240	Seconded by: Clearinghouse Rule: Appointment: Other:	Satuutz	
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Committee Member Sen. Roger Breske, Chair Sen. Richard Grobschmidt Sen. Jim Baumgart Sen. Alan Lasee Sen. Dale Schultz	ින එ Totals: _	Aye No	Absent	Not Voting
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